

# Review of: "Challenges in Reducing Maternal Mortality Rate in Pakistan"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

I have given a serious reading to this paper. Attempt of writing this manuscript is praiseworthy but authors lack knowledge of how to structure a scientific paper. Here is my feedback:

- a) Abstract never carries references.
- b) Intro is copy of abstract, not acceptable. Intro does not tell why this paper is being written and what is the issue in background which will be unfolded through this paper.
- c) Maternal Mortality Rate is no term; it is always "Maternal mortality ratio", so serious lack of knowledge about demography.
- d) What is national program for reducing maternal mortality? Any reference? Health is a provincial subject since 2011.
- e) Is Koblinsky's reference about Pakistan or it is cited as a generic reference?
- f) World Bank reference talks about floods damaging the health infrastructure, not conflict and terrorism. Please do not misquote World Bank.
- g) Inadequate contraceptive knowledge is a wrong statement and an old story (reference used is from 2004). We are in 2023 and last PDHS of 2017-18 recorded that knowledge about FP is almost universal.
- h) ANC utilization is not low today, again reference used is from 2006.
- i) High out of pocket expenditure is again an incorrect statement and from an old reference of 2003. Lately, all maternity related expenses are/have been borne by the government.
- j) Conclusion never carries references. It should be authors' own thoughts and analysis deduced from the literature review and situation analysis.